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CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC ERFURT-BINDERGEBEN Airfield

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PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT See below

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE PREPARED 30 November 1949

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1 to 16 September 1949

1. The ERFURT-BINDERGEBEN (M 51/J 26) airfield was unoccupied and unused.

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25 September 1949

2. The ERFURT-BINDERGEBEN airfield was unoccupied although the landing field was serviceable. A long row of four or five white code panels on the landing field indicated that planes were expected to land there. The truck loaded with reels of telephone cable, with a trailer moved toward the edge of the landing field. All kasernes south of the ERFURT-BINDERGEBEN road were occupied by German civilians.

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27 September 1949

3. All civilians living at the ERFURT-BINDERGEBEN airfield were ordered to place their flats at the disposal of Soviet flying personnel between 29 September and 11 October 1949.

30 September 1949

4. One U-2 biplane (machine gun at rear seat, a white "6" on fuselage) landed at the field. A formation of 40 bombers escorted by 20 fighters, coming from the east, landed there about one hour later. The bombers flying in wedge formations of seven planes each were circled by the fighters flying in elements of two. Description of bombers:

Low-wing monoplane, two in-line engines, tail skid visible in flight, upper section of nose glazed, machine gun aft of cockpit, antenna leading from cockpit to rudder assembly, gray-green paint.

Description of fighters: Low-wing monoplane, in-line engine, radiator set under engine, two machine guns above engine, tapering wings in dihedral, curved wing roots, rounded wing tips, landing gear retracted inward, rear section of cockpit

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

New classification: 2002

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No change in status

☒ Depassified

Class changed to

Date: 30 MAY 1978

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fairing into fuselage, cannon firing through propeller hub.

1 October 1949

5. There was no flying other than courier flights performed by the biplane.

2 October 1949

6. Three fighters with the white figures 3, 49 and 52 respectively, on the fuselage took off about 3 p.m. and circled the field. A radio truck around which four about 22-foot masts were arranged in a square, was about 1,000 feet from the edge of the field. The truck [REDACTED] loaded with a field kitchen moved toward the field. The passenger car [REDACTED] occupied by an officer wearing a gold embroidered cap, presumably a general, left the field proceeding in the direction of ERFURT.

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Comment:

a. The ERFURT-BINDERSLEBEN airfield has so far not been occupied by an air unit. Air transport units occasionally landed in connection with army maneuvers held in Thuringia.

b. From the information that the field kasernes had to be evacuated by the civilians for a limited period it is inferred that the bombers and fighters arriving at the field on 30 September 1949 were probably to be temporarily stationed there. According to the descriptions, the aircraft were Pe-2s and Yak-3s.

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